

AN ORDINANCE TO PROMOTE SANITATION BY REGULATING THE DISPOSAL OF WASTES AND SEWAGE IN THE CITY OF MINNESOTA CITY, MINNESOTA.

The City Council of the City of Minnesota City Ordains:

SECTION 1.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to dispose of human excreta, other wastes and sewage, or to construct, operate, or maintain any structure or system for the disposal of any such material, or to cause or permit the same to be done on any premises owned, occupied or controlled by any of them within the City except in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 2.

(a) Soil absorption systems which shall be construed to include all methods of disposing of human excreta, other wastes and sewage except by means of a general sewerage system in the City shall include, without narrowing the definition, privies, private sewage systems, septic and settling tanks, cesspools and appurtenant overflow pipes or leaching laterals of stone, drain tile, or other material and absorption or seepage pits. All soil absorption systems shall be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications recommended by the State Department of Health for use in the City of Minnesota City and approved and adopted by the City Council. At least three copies of such plans and/or specifications shall be marked as official copies and filed with the City clerk for use and examination by the public.

(b) Any other systems, methods or structures for storing, treating, removing or disposing of human excreta, other wastes and sewage shall be reviewed and passed upon by the City Board of Health and submitted with its recommendations to the City Council. Any such system, method or structure must have the approval of the City Council before being used or made usable.

SECTION 3.

(a) Private sewage systems shall be located and maintained in accordance with the rules set forth in the following subdivision:

(b) A settling or septic tank shall be provided in such systems, having a capacity, for single family dwellings, of at least 800 gallons liquid capacity, and for other dwellings and buildings of such capacity as the City Board of Health prescribes. In the event there is a garbage disposal unit or grinder connected with the house sewer, the capacity of the septic tank shall be increased at least fifty percent. Such tank and appurtenances, including all overflow pipes or leaching laterals of stone, drain tile, or other material, and absorption pits, shall be not be located nearer than fifty (50) feet to any well or spring used for drinking or culinary purposes, or for watering livestock or poultry, nor nearer than twenty-five (25) feet to a dwelling. In no case shall any outlet therefrom, be so located and constructed that liquid therefrom will be discharged into a limestone formation. No cesspool will be permitted or accepted as a settling tank. Absorption or seepage pits shall be discontinued upon order of the Board of Health. A settling tank shall not be located so as to be subject to flooding by surface water. No sludge or other effluent from septic tanks and private sewer systems shall be discharged or permitted to discharge on the surface of the ground.

(c) When sludge accumulates in such tank in sufficient quantity to interfere with its efficient operation, it shall be removed under and in accordance with the direction of the City Health Officer and buried so as to be inaccessible to human beings or animals and so as not to endanger any domestic or public water supply.

(d) When the soil around any appurtenant overflow pipe or lateral of stone, drain tile, or other material or absorption or seepage pit becomes so clogged that it will no longer absorb the liquids placed therein, additional soil absorption facilities shall be provided. Any abandoned settling tank or appurtenant absorption or seepage pit shall be filled with earth to the level of the surrounding ground and the approval of the Health Officer obtained therefor.

(e) Every settling tank shall be so constructed as to be easily accessible for cleaning and inspection from the top through suitable manhole openings. Covers for such manhole openings shall be rigid, durable and securely fastened. Ventilation shall be provided through the main house drain and house stack. The main drain to the tank should be laid without a trap.

(f) It shall be the duty of every person constructing a private sewer system to file a record of the exact location of the tank and all appurtenances thereto, and dimensions thereof, in the office of the City clerk. The City clerk shall keep a record of all such installations in a securely bound book.

SECTION 4.

The Health officer or law enforcement officials of the City shall have access to any soil absorption system for purpose of inspection at any time.

SECTION 5.

Each section, part and provision of this ordinance is declared severable from every other section, part or provision; and if any section, part or provision thereof shall be held invalid, no other section, part or provision hereof shall be thereby affected.

SECTION 6.

Any violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor.

Section 7.

This ordinance becomes effective from and after its adoption, passage and publication.

Adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Minnesota City
this 6th day of May, 1976.

Attest:

J. A. Kara
Clerk

Wayne R. Hanson
Mayor

Published _____